



Special Report From
Congressman

CHRIS SMITH:

Homeland Security

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Official Business

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Dear Friends,

The last two months have been difficult times for all Americans, particularly for the residents of New Jersey's Fourth Congressional District. The heinous attacks on the United States devastated many throughout our district who lost spouses, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and children. My wife Marie and I continue to pray that God will supernaturally intervene with healing, comfort and peace for our nation, especially for those who suffered personal losses.

As our nation and district were beginning to heal, we were attacked by anthrax. The Fourth District has been on the frontline of this germ warfare assault as our central post office, the Hamilton Distribution Center, served as the launching pad for at least three anthrax-laced letters. The letters targeted public figures, but the brunt of their terror was felt by the dedicated men and women of the United States Postal Service, who were endangered, and in some cases infected, simply because they did their job moving America's mail.

Tragically, four people nationwide have been killed by anthrax. New Jersey's seven victims have all been successfully treated and cured. Two NJ postal workers have recovered from inhalation anthrax and four have recovered from confirmed or suspected cutaneous anthrax. A local postal customer, whose office is next to my district office, has also recovered from cutaneous anthrax. Nearly 16,000 postal workers have been treated with antibiotics for possible anthrax exposure. More than 20 postal facilities have tested positive for anthrax, including at least nine in New Jersey. As I write this letter, three postal facilities nationwide remain closed pending cleaning, including the Hamilton Distribution Center.

These terrorist and anthrax attacks have exposed the vulnerabilities and challenges of an open, democratic society. I believe the federal government has an obligation to fully meet these challenges sparing no time and no expense to protect the lives of our citizens. During the past few weeks, I have held countless meetings and discussions with federal, state, and local officials to determine the best ways to strengthen our security and restore the public's faith. I have introduced, cosponsored and/or voted for several pieces of legislation aimed at protecting the general public, our skies, our mail, and our economy. Some of these proposals are outlined in the next few pages.

Please take a few minutes to read through these articles and let me know if you have any questions, ideas or proposals regarding homeland security and our war on terrorism.

Sincerely,
Chris Smith
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

Smith One-on-One With
Postmaster General (Pg3)



Tests Called For By Smith Find Anthrax at More Local Post Offices

Despite initial assurances from federal and state medical experts that "it could not happen," I remained convinced of the probability of cross contamination and extended dangers from a minimum number of anthrax-laced letters.

Accordingly, I began pushing postal and federal health officials to sample the nearly 50 feeder facilities that share the mail stream with the Hamilton Postal Distribution

center once it was determined that that facility had widespread anthrax contamination.

At first my requests were politely side-stepped by those in charge. Not to be deterred—and as the number of anthrax infections in central New Jersey increased—I formalized my proposal in a letter to United States Postmaster General John Potter dated October 26th. My letter read in part:

ANTHRAX TESTS, continued on page 2

USPS Seeks \$3 Billion to Make Mail Safe for General Public

Postmaster General John E. Potter recently testified before Congress that the United States Postal Service will need about \$3 billion to respond to the recent anthrax attacks and to ensure that the mail is safe for the general public and the nation's 800,000 postal workers.

Just days before his congressional testimony, I met one-on-one with the Postmaster (see photo on page 3) to urge com-

prehensive irradiation of the mail still caught in the system, as well as the installation of new technology that can instantly detect anthrax and other biological or chemical agents before they contaminate our nation's mail system. A major portion of the \$3 billion request will pay for equipment that will cleanse the pending mail before it is processed by postal workers.

SAFE MAIL, continued on page 4

Smith Bills to Create Standardized Protocols, New Research Centers

The recent anthrax attacks against our government, media and postal system - originating right here in New Jersey - have revealed a troubling lack of preparedness in cases of biological and chemical terrorism. That's why I have introduced legislation to require uniform national responses and to create national research centers to develop better and quicker testing and treatment protocols.

H.R. 3176, the Hazardous Agent Emergency Uniform Response Act will make our nation better prepared to handle a bio-terrorist incident in the future by requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop uniform protocols for responding to future chemical or biological attacks.

The new protocols must be applied uniformly—regardless of where the attack occurred—in the event of a public health emergency involving the hazardous agents in question. HHS would be required to coordinate with public and private emergency response personnel, including State and local health officials, so that first-responders understand the protocol and can implement it promptly and uniformly.

It is quite clear, given recent developments, that our nation does not have in place clear, unambiguous, uniform protocols to test, treat, and provide medically appropriate information in response to bio-terrorist attacks. The lack of preparedness and learn-as-you-go policies created a sense that some people were treated better than others simply because of where they worked or lived. My legislation, H.R. 3176, addresses a significant weakness that was exposed in our nation's bio-terrorism defenses as a result of the recent anthrax attacks on the U.S. postal system and

ensures that a response program will be ready, off-the-shelf, with the ability to build upon as necessary.

NATIONAL MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS CENTERS

Quicker, more accurate diagnostic tests and more effective treatments for anthrax and other biological and chemical toxins would be the focus of national research centers created under another bill I introduced earlier this month. H.R. 3253, the National Medical Emergency Preparedness Act of 2001, would create four National Medical Preparedness Centers (NMPC) within the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop new diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatments for chemical, biological and radiological terrorist threats.

As the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have closely observed and monitored the extensive VA medical research programs and their unique expertise in diagnosing and treating viral diseases with devastating health consequences, such as HIV and hepatitis C. The VA currently operates two War-Related Illness Centers tasked with developing specialized treatments for those illnesses and injuries particular to wartime exposures. In essence, these new Centers would similarly study those illnesses and injuries most likely to come from a terrorist attack using a weapon of mass destruction.

The mission of these Centers would be to research and develop methods of detection, diagnosis, vaccination, protection and treatment for chemical, biological, and radiological threats, such as anthrax and smallpox. These Centers could engage in direct research, coordinate ongoing public and private research, and serve to disseminate the latest information to healthcare workers across the country.

Smith Votes to Put Federal Law Enforcement Personnel at our Airports

One of the most significant post September 11th homeland security bills to pass Congress is the new aviation safety package designed to protect America's flying public and restore confidence in the safety of our airways. From the onset, I strongly supported legislation to federalize all airport screeners as the most comprehensive way of protecting the flying public.

Airport security is a national law enforcement function and should not be subject to cost-cutting measures that have fostered the poor standards that have contributed to serious security lapses. When it comes to the paramount interests of protecting American lives and our national security, we can trust and count on federal workers. Federal workers have proven themselves at the Defense Department and at our borders with the Customs Service and the Border Patrol. The job of protecting the security of the Congress is performed by the very capable and dedicated federal employees of the United States Capitol Police, while the security of the President, Vice President and Cabinet is tasked to the federal employees of the Secret Service. Why should Congress and the President be protected by federal employees, while airport security is left to often poorly paid, poorly trained, poorly managed out-sourced outfits?

Thankfully, after some tough negotiations, the House and Senate finally reached an agreement that will essentially put all airport screeners under the full authority of the federal government. When the bill was considered in the House, I voted for the provision to federalize all workers rather than keep them as contracted private employees. While this provision did not pass in the House, it did pass in the Senate. After weeks of

impasse, a compromise bill was proposed in which virtually all screeners will be federalized within one year of the enactment of the law. A demonstration program will allow five airports that volunteer to participate in the demonstration program to keep their screeners under a private contract. The rest of the airports will remain in the federal program for three years at which time they could opt out if they could demonstrate that safety would not be jeopardized.

The compromise basically establishes full federalization of our airport safety program. It will be harder for airports to opt out once an effective federal program is in place. Furthermore, it is obvious that the current system which relies primarily on unstructured and mostly private aviation security contractors has failed miserably. There have been too many recent stories about some new security scares at our airports. The federalization of airport security employees will enable the government to establish, enforce, monitor, and continually upgrade security standards. Once in place, federalization will help restore America's confidence in flying.

In addition to federalizing security procedures at airports, the new aviation security bill also requires airlines to permanently fortify cockpit doors. The bill increases the number of federal sky marshals for domestic flights and mandates an upgrade in electronic screening technology. Additionally, the new law requires that all checked luggage be inspected. The law also requires new stringent background checks for current employees that have access to secure areas at airports and creates research and training programs for flight and cabin crews to better deal with in-flight threats and emergencies.

House Praises Postal Workers



The House of Representatives recently adopted legislation, H.Con.Res. 257 honoring the employees of the United States Postal Service for continuing to do their jobs despite the anthrax attacks. During the floor debate on H.Con.Res. 257, Rep. Chris Smith said: "We need to be willing to make the kind of payment to ensure that every letter carrier, every postal worker and...everyone who gets mail is not going to become contaminated...by recognizing that they are on the front line, we need to put postal workers on a pedestal and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their courage and their commitment to public service during these very trying time."

Smith then singled out the hard work and dedication of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) President Tony DiStephano and American Postal Workers Union (APWU) President Bill Lewis during the crisis. He also recognized the efforts of Central Jersey Postal Manager Vito Cetta and of Trenton Postmaster Joseph Sautello. Pictured above outside the Hamilton Distribution Center are (left to right): Tony Massa, NJ President NALC; Rep. Smith; Tony DiStephano; Timothy C. O'Malley, Region 12 National Business Agent; Bruce DiStephano, Branch 38 President NALC.

ANTHRAX TESTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Since the only three anthrax-laced letters known to exist all generated from somewhere in Central New Jersey and traveled through the Hamilton Post Office, it is imperative that the other facilities that share the mail stream and equipment with the Hamilton facility be tested as well. The Postal Service has a responsibility to determine whether or not any more of its employees have been exposed to anthrax."

The next day, postal authorities announced they had hired independent firms to conduct anthrax testing at each of the postal facilities that feed the Hamilton facility's mail stream. After this decision, the NJ Department of Health and the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) offered to do the testing themselves over a four-day period in early November.

As part of the testing, the CDC took nearly 900 samples from the nearly 50 post offices in Central New Jersey. Less than a week after that testing was done, we learned that four of those facilities -

Trenton, Jackson Township, Princeton Borough and Rocky Hill Borough - contained trace amounts of anthrax. Another facility, in Allentown Borough, was cleaned after tests were inconclusive. In all, 10 postal facilities have thus far been affected by anthrax in New Jersey. Nine of these facilities were cleaned and decontaminated; the Hamilton Distribution Center remains closed and awaits final cleansing and decontamination.

Had these tests — and the subsequent decontamination — not been done, hundreds of postal workers would have been further exposed to the deadly anthrax which remains a threat until properly removed. The postal decision to test these facilities, while late, has now resulted in safer work environments for employees and a safer mail stream for the general public. Postmaster General Potter, who relied on the CDC for guidance, has since promised to establish his own protocols on testing, cleaning and closing postal facilities to severely limit possible exposure from any future biological or chemical attacks.

New Tools For Law Enforcement To Help Prevent Future Terrorism

To help prevent future acts of terrorism on American soil, Congress approved, and the President signed, comprehensive legislation to provide important new tools for law enforcement. The new law, P.L. 107-56, which I strongly supported and voted for, represents a balanced compromise between competing House and Senate proposals concerning the scope and duration new federal powers.

The resulting legislation provides a number of overdue changes to our criminal and civil codes without infringing on our most basic civil liberties. Among the most important changes made were:

- **Nationwide court orders.** In terrorism investigations, judges can issue a single warrant applicable to all of a suspect's property nationwide. This would prevent suspects from avoiding reasonable search warrants by simply transferring items in question to a different location.

- **Search warrants** to obtain all stored electronic communications. This would update criminal law in light of new technological changes to include email and voicemail. Most Americans no longer use answering machines, but instead use digital voicemail systems.

- **Roving Wiretaps.** Court-approved wiretaps could be linked to individual sus-

pects rather than their individual telephone lines. This would allow investigators to listen to conversations from any telephone a suspect uses, whether it is a home, cell, business or public phone.

- **Immigration detention** of up to seven days before charges must be filed. This would give law enforcement agencies a reasonable length of time to verify the actual identity of the suspect in custody in the event the suspect is using a false identification.

- **Sunset Provisions.** The legislation contains a "sunset" provision that would eliminate these new powers after four years, unless extended by Congress with new authorizing legislation. The inclusion of a "sunset" provision will ensure that Congress periodically reexamine the impact these changes may have upon the exercise of our civil liberties.

The unprecedented assaults on our home front have made Americans reevaluate all aspects of our society, particularly the need for security against terrorism. P.L. 10756 takes a commonsense approach by increasing the ability of law enforcement to track and investigate suspected terrorists, without restricting the basic civil liberties.

Money Available for Victims of Sept.11 Attacks

The Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (Public Law 107-42), which I strongly supported, mandated a new compensation fund for victims and the families of people killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11th. A single claim may be filed for each person injured or killed at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, in Shanksville, PA, or in one of the hijacked airliners.

In accordance with the new law, Attorney General John Ashcroft is currently drafting regulations to determine who is eligible for this compensation, how it will be distributed and how and when people may begin to apply. On November 4, 2001, the Department of Justice (DOJ) published a Notice of Inquiry and Advance Notice of Rulemaking seeking public comments from potential beneficiaries, their employers, the legal community and anyone who has come forward to help those devastated by the events of September 11th. Because of the urgent nature of the program, the DOJ requested comments in an early and abbreviated fashion — allowing only 21 days. The comment period was unusually short and will close on November 26th. Final regulations governing how the fund will be administered must be determined by December 21, 2001.

Despite the limited time frame, it is extremely helpful to review the Notice of Rulemaking, and, if time permits, to submit comments directly to the DOJ via e-mail and/or fax. You may obtain the Notice of Rulemaking at: www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation/notice.pdf, or you may contact my office to receive a copy by mail or by fax. Additional information, and directions on

how to submit comments in response to the Notice of Rulemaking may be found at the DOJ Victim and Family Assistance Web site at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/terrorism/victimassistance. Anyone seeking additional information about the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund or needing assistance in sending your comments to the DOJ, even if they exceed the expedited deadline, may contact my office listed below.

While the law sets no limits and obligates the federal government to pay all awards, it does prohibit those who file claims from entering lawsuits to get additional compensation — a restriction that may be reviewed by the courts down the road. Under the law, each state's compensation caps are respected on compensable financial losses including the family income, fringe benefits, medical or funeral bills. Non-economic injuries, such as physical, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish may be awarded, but only in the name of the victim, not survivors.

The law requires the Attorney General to appoint a "Special Master" who will be given final authority on the decisions regarding each claim. The Special Master will define the forms to be used; the information to be submitted; procedures for hearings and the presentation of evidence for claims; and procedures to assist those eligible to file compensation claims. People who wish to file a claim as part of the September 11th Victim Compensation Program must make their initial application within two years after the final regulations governing the fund are published. The deadline, then, would be approximately December 2003.

Smith Delivers NJ Postal Concerns to National Postmaster General



Rep. Chris Smith recently met one-on-one with United States Postmaster General John E. Potter in his Washington Office to address many concerns expressed by New Jersey's postal workers and postal costumers. A top priority for our area is the expedited irradiation of mail trapped in anthrax-contaminated facilities and the installation of proper equipment to keep the mail safe in the future. In both instances, Potter pledged to keep central NJ at the top of the list. Potter also agreed to support Smith's bill (H.R. 3175) to waive late fees for consumer's whose mail flow was interrupted by the anthrax attacks.

For postal employees, Smith pushed and got the approval of the Post Office providing free flu shots to all postal employees across the country. He also requested continued transportation coverage and comp time for those who have been moved to makeshift work locations while the main Hamilton Distribution Center is closed.

Smith Bill Would Eliminate Certain Late Fees For People Affected by Mail Slowdown

Immediately after the Hamilton Post Office was closed because it was contaminated with anthrax, I developed a broad and comprehensive legislative package to address the numerous problems that developed or were imminent. A key component of this package is H.R. 3175, the Late Fee Emergency Relief Act of 2001.

This bill would eliminate certain late fees assessed against people whose mail was stopped or slowed because of the anthrax crisis. It would be simply wrong to penalize people who paid and mailed their bills on time but whose delivery was interrupted because of this crisis. This legislation was drafted after my office received several calls from constituents concerned that they would be financially penalized even though they paid their bills on time. While the mail has continued to move despite the anthrax crisis, it has been slowed significantly. The closure of the Hamilton Distribution Center has reduced the flow of mail in central New Jersey by 25 percent.

The Late Fee Emergency Relief Act of 2001 would prohibit federally regulated creditors, like banks and phone and cable companies, from charging late fees or submitting a negative credit report on customers whose mail has been slowed or stopped because of this crisis.

The Postmaster General would be required to develop a list of all zip codes whose mail was disrupted because of the anthrax attack. This process would be repeated should any future terrorist attacks disrupt our nation's mail. The people who live within a certified disrupted zone would receive federal credit protection for each month that their area was affected.

My bill will provide reasonable and practical relief for people penalized because of no fault of their own. Only people who live in areas designated by the Postmaster General would receive the protection and it would only cover penalties incurred during a designated time period. So people who owe previous late fees or other charges still have to pay their bills.

In addition to providing relief for people affected by this crisis, my bill will be another link in our nation's stronger chain responding to terrorism. Should our mail be slowed in the future, our response will be ready to go.

Recently, I testified before the House Committee on Financial Service's Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit on my legislation. It is my hope that both Houses of Congress and the President will clearly see that this protection is needed, and needed immediately.

CONGRESS APPROVES \$40 BILLION EMERGENCY FUNDS

Funds Help Secure Homeland

Within days of September 11th, the House and the Senate came together in an historic bipartisan manner to unanimously approve \$40 billion of emergency aid to respond to the terrorist attacks. The money will be used to aid the victims, strengthen security at airports and other vulnerable infrastructure, investigate and prosecute those responsible for the atrocities, and strengthen our nation's homeland security against future acts of terrorism.

As approved, the legislation (P.L. 107-38) made \$10 billion immediately available to the President for emergency rescue,

rebuilding efforts, security enhancements and gearing up for the war on terrorism. The law made a second \$10 billion available to the President with basically unfettered authority to spend the money provided that he notified Congress within 15 days on how it would be spent. The bulk of this money has also been obligated.

The remaining \$20 billion will be made available upon request from the President, subject to legislative approval from Congress. It is this portion of the emergency spending that is under intense negotiations between Congress and the White House with a final delineation by the end

of the year. In all, the law specifically requires that at least half the \$40 billion be available for disaster and other humanitarian relief, while the other half be targeted to prevent future attacks.

The first emergency allocations were made to the Department of Defense (\$5.46 billion) for repairs, intelligence upgrades and other national security needs; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) received an instant \$2 billion for emergency aid to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia (\$2 billion); HUD Community Development block grants for economic recovery efforts in New York City (\$700 million); and the Federal Aviation Administration for increased airport security and additional air marshals (\$314 million). The United States Postal Service also received \$175 million to help it deal with the anthrax attack in central New Jersey and Washington.

Since New Jersey received an emergency declaration from FEMA in September our state and local agencies are eligible for significant support and reimbursement from the federal government for relief and recovery programs we have initiated to help the hundreds of New Jersey families devastated by the attack. FEMA has already obligated more than half of the \$160 million the state has applied for as part of our initial request. The funds will be used for hazard mitigation, crisis counseling, legal assistance, healthcare costs and infrastructure improvements just to name a few.

In its proposal on how best to spend the remaining \$20 billion, the Bush Administration identified a number of specific earmarks to achieve additional repairs and security upgrades. The Department of Agriculture is requesting funding to conduct research on biohazardous materials and to increase the security of our nation's food supply from biological and chemical threats. The

Department of Energy would use money to improve the security of our nation's nuclear stockpile and infrastructure, improving security at nuclear power plants and nuclear research laboratories.

The Department of Health and Human Services has requested an additional \$643 million to increase the size of our nation's pharmaceutical stockpile so that it is capable of treating an additional 10 million people exposed to anthrax and other biological and chemical hazards. In addition, \$509 million has been requested to accelerate the production of smallpox vaccines with the ultimate goal of inoculating our entire population.

For workers who were, or who may be displaced because of the economic repercussions that resulted from the terrorist attacks, the Department of Labor has requested \$2 billion in National Emergency Grants to provide employment and training assistance. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has requested \$150 million to make \$600 million in low interest loans available to businesses directly impacted by the terrorist attacks. (See story below, left.)

The Army Corps of Engineers would receive \$139 million for additional security measures at dams and other facilities under their jurisdiction. And the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would receive \$76 million to strengthen drinking water testing.

As with the first portion of the emergency funding, the largest portions of the congressionally-appropriated funds would go to the Defense Department (\$7.4 billion) to further enhance our military posture around the world; and to FEMA (\$5.5 billion), to aid victims and rebuild critical public infrastructure. It is through FEMA that New Jersey expects to receive the bulk of our relief spending.

Federal Money Available to Help Small Businesses

Recognizing the far-reaching effect of the September 11th terror attacks, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering loans to small businesses in New Jersey that were directly impacted. Loans will also be available to those businesses that were harmed financially because of the government's response to the attacks. For example, a New Jersey-based airport limousine service that suffered greatly when our airports were closed and few people traveled by air would be eligible to apply for this assistance.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans up to \$1.5 million for working capital are available at an interest rate of 4% per year, for a maximum of 30 years. Owners of businesses interested in applying for these loans should call the SBA's Hotline at 1-800-659-2955 to receive an application. Applicants will need to explain why their business suffered as a direct result of the terrorist attacks or because of the government's response to the September 11th attacks. They will also have to supply copies of

federal tax returns for the past three years. Applications must be submitted by January 21, 2002.

The SBA is also offering Physical Disaster Loans to small businesses that were physically damaged within the disaster areas of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Applications for loans under this program must be filed by June 2002. Local Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), which are located throughout the nation, will be able to help businesses apply for help in the future, but at the present time anyone who wants to apply must call the SBA Hotline to receive applications and further information.

As a former small business owner myself, I know how important small businesses are to America's economic health. As our nation recovers from the tragic events of September 11th, it is imperative that we aid small businesses, especially those without the resources to withstand sharp declines in economic activity.

SAFE MAIL

CONTINUED FROM PG1

Approximately 500,000 pieces of mail from the anthrax-infected distribution center in Hamilton still need to be cleaned. The mail will be hit with electron beams, which would kill any biological or chemical agents that may be in or attached to it.

In addition to sanitizing the mail entrapped in contaminated facilities, the USPS must also identify ways to prevent a similar attack in the future. It is my hope that part of the \$3 billion in emergency funding will be spent to purchase and install new portable air sampling devices that have been proven to collect, detect, identify and report biological pathogens in the air. At a recent Capitol Hill seminar (see photo, right), more than a dozen companies demonstrated a variety of devices that can be used to monitor indoor air quality and successfully identify micron and

submicron sized particles in workplace and public areas. The upfront purchase of a sufficient number of devices would be a significant but worthy aspect of any real comprehensive homeland security program.

Other than our Nation's capital, where two postal workers were killed by anthrax, no postal region and no postal customers have suffered more than in central New Jersey. Postmaster Potter knows this and assured me that Hamilton and the 46 feeder postal facilities will be given a top priority when it comes to selecting the proper irradiation systems and installing potentially life-saving equipment for the future.

In addition to the costs of the irradiation equipment, the Post Office needs additional money to cover the costs of several other unanticipated emergency expenses. These include testing and treating more than 16,000 postal employees potentially exposed to anthrax as well as testing and, when needed, cleaning Post Offices infect-

New Technology for Detecting Chemical and Biological Attacks



Virginia Morlock of Northrop Grumman explains the operation of a Mobile Chemical Agent Detector to Rep. Chris Smith at a recent Capitol Hill exhibition of chemical and biological sensing equipment.

ed with anthrax. Nationwide 20 postal facilities tested positive for anthrax; in NJ alone, 9 post offices tested positive. Three

major facilities—the Hamilton Distribution Center, the Brentwood Facility in Washington, and the Morgan Post and Distribution Center in New York will require significant, extensive cleaning. The Post Office has also purchased 4.8 million face masks and 90 million pairs of gloves and is implementing new security procedures, perhaps including new detection devices.

It is critical that the government provide assistance to the Postal Service because of the key role the Postal Service plays in the overall economic health of our country. As many Americans, particularly those of the Fourth District, have realized, when the mail is slowed down or stopped, the overall economy suffers. The Post Office is the cornerstone of a \$900 billion mail industry and accounts for eight percent of the entire Gross Domestic Product. We cannot afford to allow mail to be used as a vehicle for terror again and must act now to ensure that it is safe.

If you have any comments, questions, or requests for assistance, please contact one of my offices at:

✓ Mercer/Burlington (609) 585-7878

✓ Ocean/Monmouth/(732) 350-2300

✓ Washington, D.C./ (202) 225-3765